



**Town of Fairfax**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**November 5, 2018 – 7:00pm**

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The drafted minutes presented below are unapproved subject to corrections and/or additions at the next Selectboard meeting. Those corrections and/or additions will be written to an amended version of the minutes, which will also be made available to the public.

**Selectboard Members Present:** Steven Cormier; Chair, Randy DeVine; Vice-Chair, Stephen Bessette, Duane Leach and Sheri Rainville.

**Public Present** Robby Rodimer, Carrie Germaine, Brett Philips, Kathy Joshim, Tim Wasilewski, AJ Lanpher, Andrew Davis, Louis Hodgetts, Lieutenant Maurice LaMothe

**Employees Present:** Brad Docheff (Town Manager), Tim Germaine

**Call to Order:** S. Cormier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Announcements/Additions:** Brad presented a Municipal Grant in Aid reimbursement application to be signed for equipment purchase. Approved by the Board.

**Minutes:** 10-15-18 S. Bessette made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Duane all in favor.

**Accounts Payable & Payroll Warrants:** The Town and Utility warrants were reviewed by S. Cormier, approved by the Board.

**Public Comment:** None

**Correspondence:**

- Stone's Throw Pizza submitted an application for a liquor license. S. Bessette made the motion to approve the application, seconded by Sheri, approved by the board.

**Andrew Davis: Verizon & Louis Hodgetts: Dubois & King: Land Lease**

Conversation continued about the land lease on Fletcher Road. S. Cormier asked what estimated timetable the town would be looking at. Andrew said an estimated timeline if the agreement was signed within 3-6 months, an ideal timeline of 18 months but no guarantee. Steps would include, conceptually with town on board, agreement to execute form, notice to abutters of proposed property site, zoning regulations, environmental steps and GEO Tac. The board will define a priority list with Brad, (Town Manager) and gives Brad the authority to move forward with Andrew for further discussions.

**Fairfax Rescue follow up meeting over financial discrepancies:**  
**Board Members, Kathy Joshim, Tim Wasilewski and Brett Philips:**

S. Cormier asked if the Director was present for the meeting. Rescue Board Members advised her not to come.

Rescue provided the SB with a Fairfax EMS Overview. This provided history of the Rescue, budget information, detail of financial investigation timeline from an internal review. Also included were recommendations from Gallagher, Flynn & Company on proposed SOP- Standard Operating Practices. Letters were mailed to other towns concerning this issue; however Fairfax did not receive the letter direct from Rescue. It was said this was just an oversight on Rescue's part. A financial audit has not been done in at least 4 years. Issues over the director's discrepancies were reviewed by the Rescue Board and they did not feel any disciplinary action was needed. Practices of accounts payable and payroll have had changes to require 2 people's review. For several months timesheets were not provided, the rescue schedule was reviewed to verify time paid.

It was asked, why the director was advised not to attend this meeting. Response was they felt it would be a "character assassination" The Selectboard continues their disappointment in the transparency Rescue has provided. In the September meeting, Rescue asked for the Towns help to resolve areas of improvement. No outreach for help has been asked from Rescue.

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**Appoint Zoning Administrator:** By State Statue the ZA must be appointed every 3 years. S. Bessette made the motion to appoint Amber Soter to the 3 year term of ZA, seconded by Sheri, all in favor.

**Town Manager updates:**

- The Shepardson Hollow Bridge continues to be closed. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, an additional grant was applied for. Should hear on results in the Spring. We have received 2 quotes for Preliminary Engineering. Estimated construction will be in 2020.
- 3 RFQ's have gone out for the town reappraisal. One company will not be able to submit so an additional RFQ will be sent out.
- Budget meetings have been happening with department heads. Should have a preliminary budget to submit to the board by the next meeting.
- Recreation Update: Halloween was a great success. It's like a community wide party. The town resident's involvement is great. Working on ideas on how the town can be more supportive for next year.
- Fairfax is now a Rise VT health partner. Rise VT supports building healthy community wellness.
- Sidewalks: Should be wrapping up soon, they are ahead of schedule. Winter Maintenance Options were discussed. This winter may be a gap year to figure out what works best. Currently residents clean the sidewalk in from on their homes. With the new sidewalks it is felt the town should be clearing them.

#### **Other Business:**

- Articles for Town Report: It was brought up should Fairfax Rescue be required to get a petition to be put on the ballot for town meeting. No action was taken.
- The Town Clerk and Treasurer positions: Should the positions become a hired vs. elected positions. Duane stated we were advised last year to make this change. Discussion will continue at future meetings.
- D.Jay Leach: in April the board approved to continue paying the difference between D. Jay's 40 hour week and workers compensation benefit, for 6 months. On October 30, 2018 that time expired. The board stood by their April decision, and will no longer pay the difference in salary. Sheri made the motion to extend health insurance coverage to December 31, 2018 at that time; coverage will end, seconded by Randy, all in favor.
- December 4<sup>th</sup>, the Selectboard, DRB and PC will have a joint round table meeting.

At 8:32 Sheri made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel issue, seconded by S. Bessette, all in favor.

At 8:45 Sheri made the motion to exit executive session, seconded by S. Bessette, all in favor.

A town employee has given their notice. Brad will review the job description before posting the position.

#### **Adjournment:**

At 8:46 S. Bessette made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Duane, all in favor.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Amy Sears, Admin. Asst. to the Selectboard

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Steven Cormier- Chair  
**Fairfax Selectboard**

**\*\* The recorded meeting is available through LCATV or the Town's website. \*\***